

### **This I believe...Life is full of obstacles**

“In spite of wind, snow and unexpected weather of all sorts - a gardener still plants. And tends what they have planted ... believing that spring will come”. (Mary Anne Radmacher) Indeed, the road of life is one filled with numerous obstacles where one will find, and one must face them bravely and overcome them. However, personally, it is easier said than done.

I too, have struggled immensely to overcome obstacles in my life. Unlike other parents, who would try all means to enrol their precious child into a prestigious school as a head start for a better future, my parents enrolled me in a neighbourhood primary school. All my parents hoped for was for me to have a smooth education journey, but yet, I have never seemed to be able to achieve that.

I admit, I am a perfectionist. Completing homework on time, excelling in examinations, all these are my goals. However, there is a limit to one's capabilities, especially to a young child still trying to figure out the ways of the world. Even as a seven-year-old child, I had stress. I would freak out before examinations and I would cry whenever I encountered difficulty in work, despite the fact that I had an elder brother to approach for help. Therefore, I often asked myself, “Why am I doing this?”

The answer is simply this: I want to do well! The only advantage I could squeeze out of my situation is simply the excellence I want to achieve has cultivated me into a motivated learner. Needless to say, the disadvantages are uncountable. I do not want this to happen. This is the obstacle I want to overcome, and as Michael Jordan says, “Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.”

Another reason why I am doing this is because, I am simply afraid to fall. I hate failures. However, “Failure is in a sense the highway to success, and failure happens but it is what makes us better.” (John Keats) Obstacles are presented to us so that we will stand up to them and face them bravely, even if it may not always yield a positive outcome. Be it a negative one, I would still be able to learn from it and thus grow. Indeed, “Life's up and downs provide windows of opportunity to determine your values and goals. Think of using all obstacles as stepping stones to build the life you want.” (Marsha Sinetar)

Indeed, the path of life, as cliché as it sounds, is a road full of obstacles so that people will learn to face them bravely and overcome them. I have not yet overcome mine, but I am sure that I will someday, as for every mountain there is a miracle. (Robert H. Schuller) No matter what, I must stand up to obstacles bravely and conquer them because when life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile. This I believe.